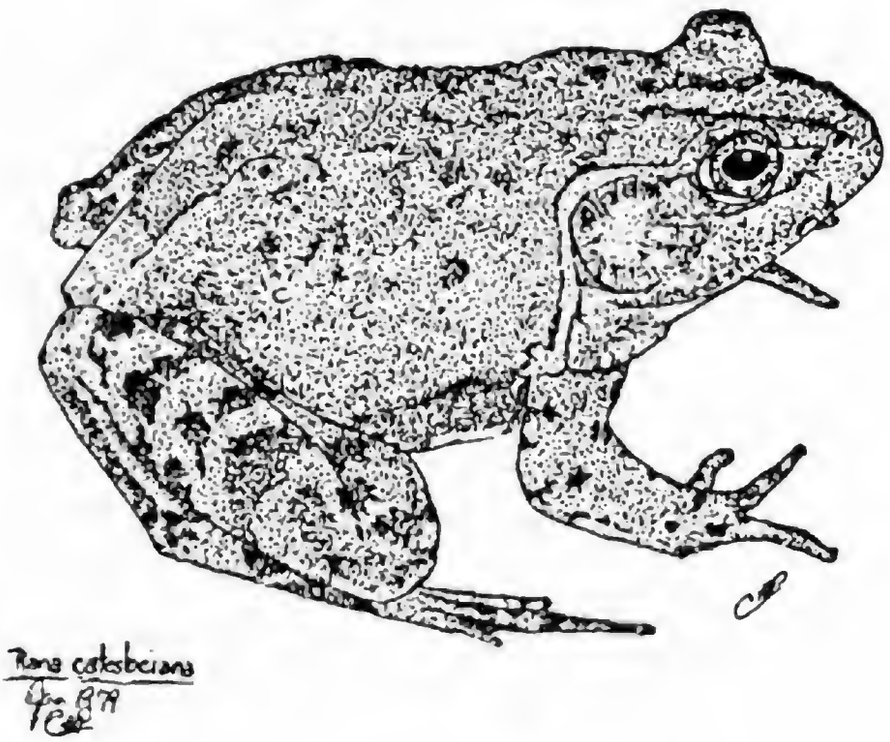
CATESBEIANA



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BULLETIN INFORMATION

Catesbeiana is issued twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles and includes a subscription to *Catesbeiana* and admission to all meetings.

Dues are $10.00 per year and includes a subscription to *Catesbeiana* numbers 1 and 2 for that year. Dues are payable to: Robert Hogan, P.O. Box 603, Troutville, VA 24175.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The principle function of *Catesbeiana* is to publish observations and original research about Virginia herpetology. Rarely will articles be reprinted in *Catesbeiana* after they have been published elsewhere. All correspondence relative to suitability of manuscripts or other editorial considerations should be directed to Co-editors, *Catesbeiana*, Department of Biology, Liberty University, Box 20,000, Lynchburg, VA 24506.

Major Papers

Manuscripts being submitted for publication should be typewritten (double spaced) on good quality 8½ by 11 inch paper, with adequate margins. Consult the style of articles in this issue for additional information. Articles will be refereed by at least one officer (past or present) of the Virginia Herpetological Society in addition to the editor. All changes must be approved by the author before publication; therefore manuscripts must be submitted well in advance of the March or September mailing dates.

Reprints of articles are not available to authors; however, authors may reprint articles themselves to meet professional needs.

(Editorial policy continued on inside back cover.)

CATESBEIANA

Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society

Volume 14 Spring 1994 No. 1

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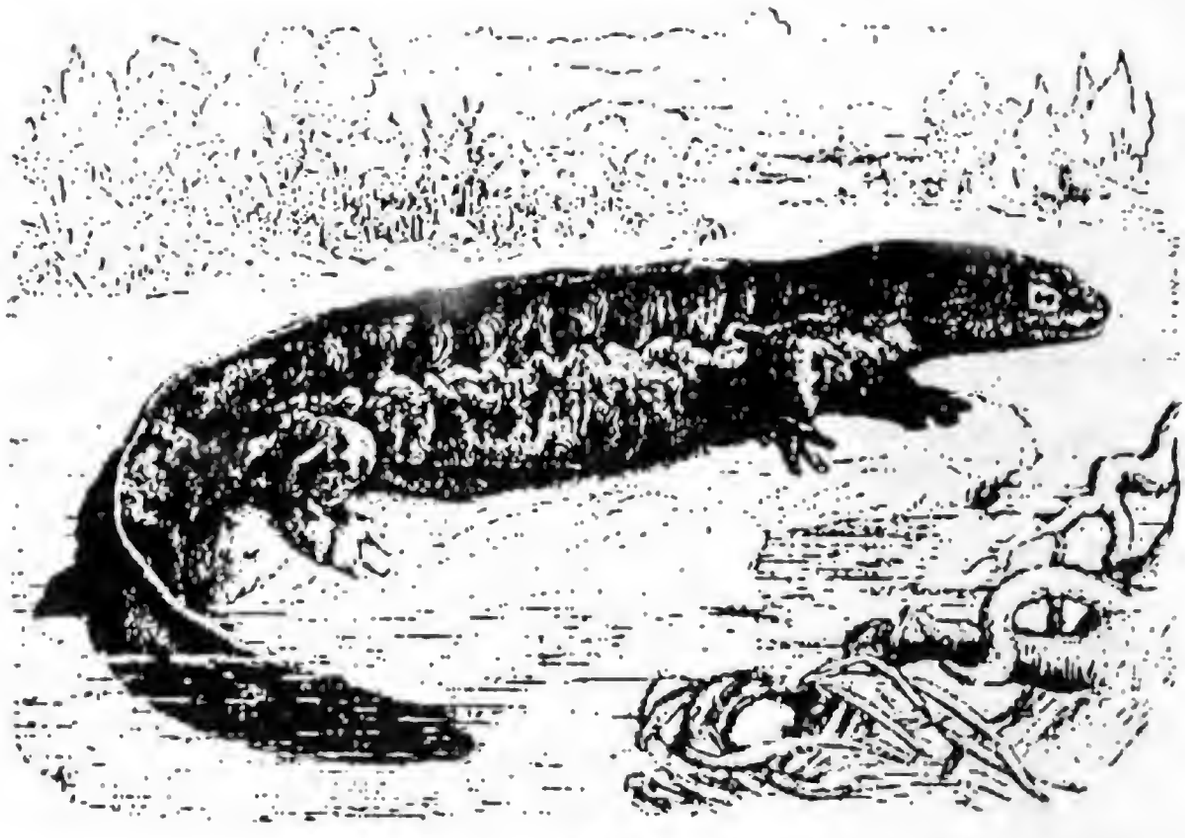
MEETING NOTICE

The Spring 1994 VHS meeting will be held on 22-24 April, 1994 at Copper Creek in Scott County. See pages 23-24 for details.



Hellbender

PAUL R. BURCH'S HERPETOLOGICAL COLLECTION AT RADFORD COLLEGE, VIRGINIA: A VALUABLE RESOURCE LOST

Richard L. Hoffman
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Martinsville, VA 24112

and

Joseph C. Mitchell
Department of Biology
University of Richmond
Richmond, VA 23173

Paul Randolph Burch (1898-1958) is most likely to be remembered by scientific posterity as the person who discovered and described the federally endangered "Fringed Mountain Snail" (*Polygyriscus virginianus*). For many years (1928-1954) Burch was professor of biology at the then Radford State Teachers College. He lays claim to our attention as an example of someone who, trained in experimental biology during his graduate school years, later renounced his academic heritage and became an enthusiastic student of Virginia's natural history with special interests in herpetology and malacology.

Born in Martinsville, Virginia, Burch earned his bachelor's degree from Randolph-Macon College, and both the M.S. (1927) and Ph. D. (1930) degrees from the University of Virginia, where he was a student of William A. Kepner and as such specialized on the physiology of cnidarians and protistans. Upon assuming professorship at Radford, his research interests took an abrupt about-face, owing possibly to the lack of expensive physiological instrumentation and concomitant opportunities for field work in a rural environment. It is not known when he became interested in herpetology, but his summers, beginning in 1936, were spent at the Mountain Lake Biological Station where he met and was strongly influenced by Emmett Reid Dunn. When the first author of this paper began work at Radford College in 1960, six years after Burch's retirement, the college library held very few herpetological reference texts, notable among them being Dunn's "Plethodontidae" and Jordan's "Manual of the Vertebrates", apparently his primary sources for identification. About the same time, Burch became interested in terrestrial and freshwater mollusks, and embarked on a project to monograph the state's fauna of these animals. He collected widely in

southwestern Virginia, but owing to budgetary restraints at the college, did not enjoy the luxury of adequate storage facilities, and kept his material in an amazing array of match boxes, pill boxes, vials, shoe boxes, and everything in between. Specimens were often glued to cardboard. Although he owned a set of the Pilsbry volumes on land snails of North America, Burch relied heavily on the expertise of J. P. E. Morrison at the U. S. National Museum (now National Museum of Natural History) for identifications, and fairly complete sets of specimens were thus preserved at Washington despite the post-retirement loss of his main collection. In 1961, a substantial quantity of unionid mussel samples was found at Radford College and those lots with collection data were dispatched to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

Regrettably, the same salvation did not attend the collections of herptiles. On 28 June 1947, the first author and Hubert I. Kleinpeter visited Dr. Burch at Radford, on their way to an initial encounter with the fauna of Burkes Garden, and had the opportunity to examine the material. Although housed in a wide variety of jars - many with rusting lids - and preserved in formalin, most of the specimens were in fair to good condition and all had some kind of collection data. A list was drawn up and forms the basis for the second part of this account.

Through an inexplicable sequence of events and mistakes, the herptile collection fell into ruin after 1954. Someone had the great idea to replace the original labels with just catalog numbers, and the book containing the corresponding data naturally disappeared (if one ever existed). By the time the first author took a position at Radford in 1960, virtually everything had dried up, and even those specimens which could be identified from the 1947 list were unusable and unrecoverable.

The identifications were remarkably accurate considering the reference material available to Burch at the time. Perhaps Dunn named or reviewed some specimens. The major error noted on the 1947 visit was a series of *Acris crepitans* from Newcastle, Craig Co., misidentified as *Pseudacris brachyphona*.

Burch published only three papers on Virginia herpetology. His first was on the snakes of western Virginia (Burch, 1940). In it he listed 18 species and briefly described aspects of their natural history. He used a variety of vernacular names, including striped water snake for the queen snake (*Regina septemvittata*), mountain blacksnake for the black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*), mountain king snake for the black king snake (*Lampropeltis getula nigra*), green whip snake for the rough green snake (*Opheodrys aestivus*), and banded or mountain rattlesnake for the

timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*). Burch recognized two forms of garter snakes, a black and green striped snake which he called the common garter (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) and one with "checker-board-like black and green squares on either side of the mid-dorsal line," called the spotted garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis ordinatus*). He also recognized the melanistic phase of the eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*) as a separate subspecies, "*Heterodon platirhinos niger.*" One of the old and long synonymized names for some of the now-recognized intergrades of milk snakes (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) found in the mid-Atlantic states, *L. clericus*, first proposed by Spencer F. Baird and Charles Girard in 1853, was used by Burch for a specimen or specimens with a "black chain on a red background, each linked with white." Although most of Burch's names and ecological information are outdated, this publication was one of the first to describe some of the biology of the snakes of Virginia. It was also the first publication in which the black king snake was listed as a member of Virginia's herpetofauna, not being listed in E. R. Dunn's last checklist (Dunn, 1936). His observations were based on the specimens in his collection at Radford State Teachers College.

Burch's article on frogs and toads (Burch, 1947) was a popular account of 16 species then recognized as occurring in the Commonwealth. Outdated vernacular names included common toad for the American toad (*Bufo americanus*), mountain swamp tree frog for the mountain chorus frog (*Pseudacris brachyphona*), eastern swamp tree frog for the upland chorus frog (*Pseudacris nigrita = P. triseriata*), tree toad for the eastern gray treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*), and eastern tree frog for the green tree frog (*Hyla cinerea*). Burch, as did others prior to the 1960s, recognized all leopard frogs as *Rana pipiens*.

The only truly scientific paper Burch wrote was on the diet of the greater siren (*Siren lacertina*) with John Thornton Wood (Burch and Wood, 1955). Burch identified the five species of mollusks found in the stomach of an adult specimen from Norfolk.

P. R. Burch is remembered from the brief visit in 1947 as a most cordial and helpful host, thin of stature and nervous of manner, who even insisted that his two unexpected visitors share his evening meal. Within a few more years, his nervousness had progressed to a condition like "stage fright." After so many years of teaching, Burch found it almost impossible to face a classroom of students, a major factor leading to his retirement at the young age of 56. He took up residence in a trailer park in Florida, and died there in 1954.

It has been a common event in American academic history that biologists (or even an entire department) built up collections of diverse natural history objects (from local to world-wide in scope), only to have the material lost through neglect or outright discard by subsequent personnel. Frequently, specimens of great scientific value, sometimes irreplaceable, were thus removed from the reservoir of scientific documentation. No further specimens of *Necturus maculosus* have been found in the New River, nor additional *Opheodrys vernalis* taken at Mountain Lake, since the loss of the original Burch vouchers. Collections of amphibians and reptiles with their attending data should be salvaged when and wherever possible and donated to institutions with a long history of properly curating specimens, such as established natural history museums. College teaching collections should be combed at every opportunity to seek out specimens representing county records and other important locality vouchers. This also includes those specimens, such as gravid females and specimens with stomach contents, that can provide information on the life histories and ecological relationships of these animals. The history of amphibian and reptile collections in colleges and universities in Virginia is one of neglect and, in some cases, as exemplified in this report, complete loss. Experiences such as these suggest that the only specimens that should be maintained in such institutions are those without collection data used for teaching.

Annotated List of Specimens

The complete list of the amphibians and reptiles in Burch's collection at Radford is reproduced below. We have included all information available on each species and noted which constituted county records or other significant collections. Numbers in parentheses refer to number of specimens. Currently recognized common and scientific names are used, although Burch used the accepted names for most species in the 1940s.

Salamanders

Ambystoma maculatum (Spotted Salamander) - Montgomery Co., Radford, 15 March 1945; Augusta Co., Blue Hollow near Stuart's Draft (2), P. R. Burch and L. G. Carr.

Ambystoma opacum (Marbled Salamander) - Louisa Co., Waldrop, P. R. Burch (2). Second record for Louisa County (Tobey, 1985).

Amphiuma means (Two-toed Amphiuma) - James City Co., Williamsburg, D. W. Davis. First record for the Williamsburg area; other records in James City County (J.C. Mitchell and C.A. Pague, unpublished) and City of Newport News (Tobey, 1985).

Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis (Eastern Hellbender) - Montgomery Co., Little River Dam near Radford, P. R. Burch. During the Depression years, Burch apparently had no compunction about exploiting this species commercially. He related that he captured, preserved, and sold hellbenders to "Turtox" (a biological supply firm in Chicago) in 55 gallon-drum lots! Most of these were captured at the Little River power dam just southwest of Radford, but despite such depletion, the species was still reasonably common at that site during the 1960s.

Desmognathus auriculatus (Southern Dusky Salamander) - Norfolk Co. (= City of Chesapeake).

Desmognathus fuscus fuscus (Northern Dusky Salamander) - Bland Co., Ceres, Audrey Smith; Brunswick Co., Seward Forest near Triplet; Giles Co., Mountain Lake; Grayson Co., Whitetop Mountain.

Desmognathus monticola monticola (Appalachian Seal Salamander) - Bland Co., Ceres, Audrey Smith; Giles Co., Eggleston (4).

Desmognathus quadramaculatus (Black-bellied Salamander) - Grayson Co., Whitetop Mountain; Montgomery Co., Plum Creek near Radford (many!).

Desmognathus ochrophaeus (Mountain Dusky Salamander) - Grayson Co., Whitetop Mountain.

Eurycea cirrigera (Southern Two-lined Salamander) - Montgomery Co., Radford.

Eurycea longicauda longicauda (Long-tailed Salamander) - Pulaski Co.

Eurycea longicauda guttolineata (Three-lined Salamander) - Brunswick Co., Seward Forest near Triplet, "5-4-41," P. R. Burch.

Gyrinophilus porphyriticus porphyriticus (Northern Spring Salamander) - Giles Co., Eggleston.

Hemidactylium scutatum (Four-toed Salamander) - Giles Co., Mountain Lake; King William Co., Aylett. First record for King William County (Tobey, 1985; J.C. Mitchell and C.A. Pague, unpublished).

Necturus maculosus maculosus (Mudpuppy) - Pulaski Co., Towles Ferry. Hoffman (1984) discussed the origin of this specimen and noted that it represented the only record of this species in the New River drainage.

Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens (Red-spotted Newt) - Montgomery Co., U.S. Rt. 11 at Elliston, P. R. Burch.

Plethodon cinereus (Red-backed Salamander) - Norfolk Co. (= City of Chesapeake); Giles Co.; Montgomery Co.; Pulaski Co.

Plethodon glutinosus (Slimy Salamander) - Montgomery Co., Plum Creek near Radford. The true identification of this specimen is unknown, as this area is in the contact zone between the northern slimy salamander (*P. glutinosus*) and the white-spotted slimy salamander (*P. cylindraceus*) (Highton et al., 1989).

Pseudotriton montanus montanus (Eastern Mud Salamander) - King William Co., Aylett. First county record (Tobey, 1985) and first record for the lower part of the county (J.C. Mitchell and C.A. Pague, unpublished).

Pseudotriton ruber ruber (Northern Red Salamander) - Floyd Co., Copper Hill, Hazel Poff; Grayson Co., Whitetop Mountain; Pulaski Co., Belspring, George Wood, 1933. First record for Pulaski County according to Tobey (1985) but J.C. Mitchell and C.A. Pague (unpublished) list three locations.

A VALUABLE RESOURCE LOST

Anurans

Acris crepitans crepitans (Northern Cricket Frog) - Craig Co., Craig Creek at Newcastle. First county record and westernmost record in Virginia (Tobey, 1985; J.C. Mitchell and C.A. Pague, unpublished).

Bufo americanus americanus (American Toad) - Montgomery Co., Radford.

Bufo woodhousii fowleri (Fowler's Toad) - Giles Co., Mountain Lake (identified by E. R. Dunn).

Hyla versicolor (Eastern Gray Treefrog) - Montgomery Co., Radford.

Pseudacris crucifer crucifer (Spring Peeper) - Giles Co., Mountain Lake.

Pseudacris triseriata feriarum (Upland Chorus Frog) - Louisa Co., Waldrop.

Rana clamitans melanota (Green Frog) - Giles Co., Mountain Lake; Louisa Co., Waldrop.

Rana palustris (Pickerel Frog) - Giles Co., Mountain Lake Biological Station, July 1934.

Rana sylvatica (Wood Frog) - Giles Co., Mountain Lake, 1935; Louisa Co., Waldrop, September 1941 (kodachrome slide). First record for Louisa County (Tobey, 1985; J.C. Mitchell and C.A. Pague, unpublished).

Rana sphenocephala (Southern Leopard Frog) - Louisa Co., Waldrop.

Scaphiopus holbrookii (Spadefoot Toad) - Montgomery Co., Radford.

Turtles

Chrysemys picta picta (Eastern Painted Turtle) - Montgomery Co., Radford. The specimen exhibited a large, dark marking on the plastron.

Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum (Eastern Mud Turtle) - Louisa County.

Sternotherus odoratus (Stinkpot) - Montgomery Co., Radford (2). First record for Montgomery County (Mitchell, in press).

Terrapene carolina carolina (Eastern Box Turtle) - Montgomery Co., Radford, 1930.

Lizards

Cnemidophorus sexlineatus sexlineatus (Six-lined Racerunner) - Pittsylvania Co., Danville, J. Platt. Second record for Pittsylvania County and first for the Danville area (Mitchell, in press).

Eumeces fasciatus (Five-lined Skink) - Rockbridge Co., Goshen Pass, P. R. Burch.

Eumeces laticeps (Broad-headed Skink) - Pittsylvania Co., Chatham, M. McDowell.

Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus (Northern Fence Lizard) - Montgomery Co., Radford, 1929.

Scincella lateralis (Ground Skink) - Norfolk Co. (= City of Chesapeake).

Snakes

Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen (Northern Copperhead) - Pulaski Co., Draper, Gilmer and P. R. Burch.

Carphophis amoenus amoenus (Eastern Worm Snake) - Montgomery Co., Radford; Pulaski Co., Belspring.

Coluber constrictor constrictor (Northern Black Racer) - Montgomery Co., Radford, P. R. Burch, 1934; Pulaski Co., Belspring.

Crotalus horridus horridus (Timber Rattlesnake) - Giles Co., Mountain Lake Biological Station, 1934.

Diadophis punctatus edwardsii (Northern Ringneck Snake) - Montgomery Co., Radford (3), P. R. Burch.

Elaphe guttata guttata (Corn Snake) - Roanoke Co., Hollins, "10/29," H. Thompson.

Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta (Black Rat Snake) - Giles Co., Mountain Lake Biological Station, 1934; Pulaski County.

Heterodon platirhinos (Eastern Hognose Snake) - Pulaski Co., Lowman's Ferry (patterned), Towle's Ferry (melanistic), A. K. Eagle.

Lampropeltis getula getula (Eastern King Snake) - Pittsylvania Co., Chatham. First record for Pittsylvania County (Mitchell, in press).

Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum (Eastern Milk Snake) - Montgomery Co., Radford (2 juveniles), 1932, Ingles Mountain (1 adult).

Nerodia sipedon sipedon (Northern Water Snake) - Floyd Co., Sower's Mill; Giles Co., Mountain Lake, 1934; Montgomery Co., Radford, 1930.

Opheodrys vernalis (Smooth Green Snake) - Giles Co., Mountain Lake Biological Station. This record may have been the unvouchered record for the station in Tobey (1985) and Mitchell (in press).

Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus (Northern Pine Snake) - Craig Co., Newcastle. This is the second record for Craig County (Mitchell, in press).

Regina septemvittata (Queen Snake) - Pulaski Co., Belspring (3), 1931.

Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis (Eastern Garter Snake) - Giles Co., Mountain Lake; Montgomery Co., Connelly's Run, Radford, R. L. Covey.

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FIELD NOTES

Gastrophryne carolinensis (Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad): VA: Mathews County, along Co. Rd. 635 ca. 0.6 km southeast of its intersection with Co. Rd. 609 and ca. 1.5 km southwest of the town of Onemo; just north of Winter Harbor. 18 July 1992 and 4 July 1993. John B. Bazuin, Jr., and Joyce and Don McKelvey.

On 18 July 1992, after a five-day heat wave that had produced average temperatures of ca. 30° C and high temperatures averaging ca. 40° C in this area (both records), two torrential thunderstorms dropped 3.8-5 cm of rain between 1600 and 1815 hours. This created immediate standing water up to 25 cm deep in a semifallow horse pasture along Co. Rd. 635. By 1830 hours a chorus of anurans was already underway in this pool. I went to the pool immediately to observe the phenomenon closely and determined that the callers were probably Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toads (I had never heard this species before.). At least 20 males were calling in this chorus. I mentioned this occurrence to the very observant local naturalists Joyce and Don McKelvey, who live adjacent to the site, and asked them to be on the lookout for specimens of this species. In the early morning of 4 July 1993, after an evening thunderstorm that again dropped 3.8-5 cm of rain, the McKelveys found a moribund (cause unknown) Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad in their driveway in a Loblolly Pine forest, no more than 0.1 km from the site of the temporary pool where calling had been observed previously. They preserved this specimen in alcohol and gave it to me. It is now in the possession of Joe Mitchell for eventual deposition in an appropriate public repository. Dr. Mitchell has confirmed the identification and has also confirmed that it is a first known record for Mathews County. I would note that the specimen is on the dark side of the range of color variation for this species -- dark, almost immaculate gray on the dorsal surfaces. This area is very flat and has no running surface water. Habitats are fairly mixed but include a preponderance of Loblolly Pine forest and a substantial percentage of hay-fields and pastures. Minor habitats include yards; fence lines with deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines; salt marshes; and a road and roadside. Immediately adjacent are small, salty, tidal tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Under-lying the area are unconsolidated sands and clays of Pleistocene age.

John B. Bazuin, Jr.
7451 Little River Turnpike, #202
Annandale, Virginia 22003

FIELD NOTES

Hyla squirella Bosc (Squirrel Treefrog): VA: Greensville Co.: near outfall of Taylor's Millpond, 1.7 mi (2.8 km) southwest of Bryant's Corner on Va. Hy. 622, 5 August 1993, R.L. Hoffman.

Following a day of torrential rain, I conducted extensive after dark "backroad" cruising in the southeastern quadrant of Greensville County with the hope of locating snakes on the road and/or accessible calling frogs. After several hours with totally negative results, I happened past the southern end of Taylor's Millpond, where a roadside flooded field emitted a raucous anuran clamor. Immediate investigation disclosed, only a few feet from the edge of the pavement, about two dozen or more advertizing males of *Hyla squirella*, calling from the lower end of a soybean field with standing water about a foot deep. It would have been possible to obtain numerous specimens, but I stopped with one out of concern for the resident dog, who although a quarter-mile distant had picked up on my flashlight and seemed likely to arouse the neighborhood from sleep. Even larger numbers were calling, a few dozen yards away, from the edge of Taylor's Millpond just west of the outfall (where inaccessible because of deep water). The time was about 11 p.m., air temperature about 70° F. The site is easy to find on the "Virginia Atlas and Gazetteer" (DeLorme Mapping Co., 1989, p. 32, coordinates D-2), being exactly at the final "2" of the printed route number 622.

Continuing west on Va. Rt. 625, I heard additional choruses nearly every half-mile for a distance of about 3 miles (5 km) beyond the intersection with Rt. 622, again mostly from flooded corn fields and residential front yards (each with the inevitable anxious dog set off merely by deceleration of my car). No calls were heard beyond the point at which Rt. 625 turns abruptly northwest toward Skippers. Just prior to encountering the chorus at Taylor's Millpond, I had traversed Fontaine Swamp at both crossings (Va. Rts. 624 and 625), where nothing was calling except some dispirited katydids. It seems clear that *squirella* prefers upland, open, or even disturbed sites to black gum-cypress swamps or pine woods.

Previous Virginia records for this species (Tobey, 1985, Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: 58) mostly clustered in the extreme south (Suffolk, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach cities), with a single site on the James River in Surry County. The Greensville County populations thus represent a substantial inland extension of the local range and imply that future late summer collecting will establish additional localities in the Blackwater and Meherrin River basins. It is, however, noteworthy that

FIELD NOTES

I have collected south and east of Emporia sporadically since 1952 without hearing a single call attributable to *H. squirella*. Nor did I hear it while traversing the same backroads a month earlier, when many species of anurans were vocalizing. Timing is obviously critical.

The single male taken has been deposited in the Virginia Museum of Natural History (Herp. No. 6536).

Richard L. Hoffman
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

Plethodon cinereus (Red-backed Salamander): VA: Craig Co., Mountain Lake natural area (Jefferson Nat. Forest, War Spur Trail), 10 Oct. 1993, Dylan J. Ward.

My father, my brother, and I visited Mountain Lake natural area for a recreational day hike, and I decided to do some herping, as the woods were moist and seemed the perfect environment for salamanders. It was a bit chilly, so I didn't expect to find much, but, under the third log I turned over was a *Plethodon cinereus*. Everybody started looking as we walked down the trail, and in thirty-five minutes we had counted 27 *cinereus* and one *Plethodon cylindraceous* (White-spotted Slimy Salamander). By the end of the two-hour hike, we had counted 40 salamanders, all within six feet of either side of the well-used trail.

All of the *cinereus* were in the Red-backed phase, but some were more of a tan color than red. I have heard of some populations of *P. cinereus* with lemon yellow stripes, and believe that this is a color between red and yellow. I would also like to recommend this area for further study, as the habitat is perfect for salamanders.

Dylan J. Ward
295 Church St.
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Farancia Erytrogramma (Rainbow Snake). VA: Caroline Co., Fort A.P. Hill Military Reservation, 7 km SSE junction of U.S. Routes 17 and 301 in Port Royal, 27 September 1993, Steven M. Roble and Christopher S. Hobson.

We found this specimen dead beside Ashcake Road in the restricted access (southern) portion of Fort A.P. Hill Military Reservation. The gravel road abuts the Timmons Marsh section of Portobago Creek at the collection site. New county record. This is the northernmost locality in Virginia and extends the state range approximately 60 km N from the Hanover and King William County localities plotted in Tobey, F.J. (1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey, Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, VA. 114 pp.) and Mitchell, J.C. (in press. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.). The Caroline County locality fills the gap between the aforementioned records and three sites in Charles County, Maryland (Harris, H.S., Jr. 1975. Distributional survey (Amphibian/Reptilia): Maryland and the District of Columbia. Bull. Maryland Herp. Soc. 11(3):73-167; Miller, R.W. and J.D. Zyla. 1992 Additional rainbow snakes, *Farancia erytrogramma*, from Charles County, Maryland. bull. Maryland Herp. Soc. 28(3):99-101). The snake was apparently killed (but not eaten) by a predator, as evidenced by the presence of a severe puncture wound behind its head. The specimen will be deposited in the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Steven M. Roble and Christopher S. Hobson
Division of Natural Heritage
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
1500 E. Main Street, Suite 312
Richmond, Virginia 23219

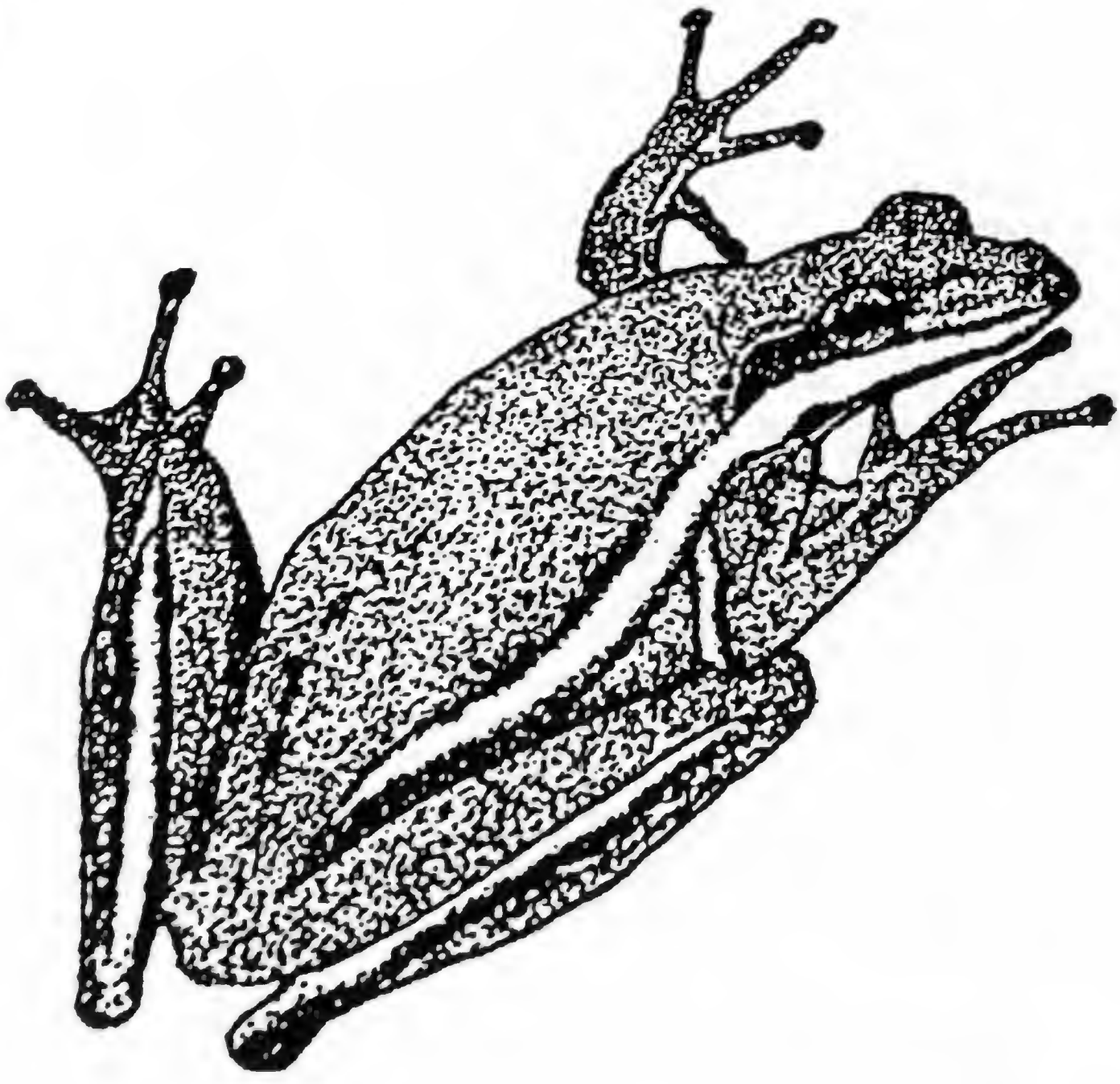
KUDOS TO RON SOUTHWICK
PAST SECRETARY/TREASURER AND NEW VHS PRESIDENT

The Virginia Herpetological Society has had a history of dedicated people serving in various capacities. This past fall, several changes in the society's leadership occurred. A primary change was that one of the society's most dedicated members now assumes the role of President. The list of all new officers elected during the 1993 Fall meeting in Lynchburg appears in the Minutes, located elsewhere in this issue of *Catesbeiana*.

The most significant change was that Ron Southwick switched offices. Ron very ably maintained the office of Secretary/Treasurer from 1989 through 1993. With his leadership and organizational skills in this most important office, the VHS grew in a number of ways. Financial management changed from a hand written ledger to computer spread sheet. The budget of the society grew substantially, and Ron insured through much personal effort that the membership was maintained at well over 100. He went well beyond the call of duty in contacting past members. While President, I was always impressed with the new ways Ron was able to find benefits for society members. It was he, for instance, who thought of buying copies of the herp chapter in the book "Virginia's Endangered Species" to make them available to members. Ron played a major role in the revision of the VHS constitution. His unfailing enthusiasm and his role in the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), has led to the VHS to be considered one of the scientific societies that the DGIF often contacts for information and advice.

Although Ron is no longer Secretary/Treasurer (that job is now in the capable hands of Bob Hogan) he continues to serve the VHS. Ron was elected President by unanimous vote. I am confident that he will continue to lead the VHS to new vistas and ensure that our society will remain a viable organization that serves the herpetofauna and people of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VHS thanks Ron for his dedication to the society and looks forward to his leadership over the next two years.

Joseph C. Mitchell
Past President



Hyla cinerea

Feb. 1979

CAP

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings to all VHS members! Thanks to Terry Spohn and the rest of the members present at the Fall meeting, I am your new president. I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. Joe Mitchell for his leadership, inspiration, and guidance as president the past five years. I also want to thank Bob Hogan for accepting the Society's secretary/treasurer job. Bob has been a member of the VHS for many years and whenever help was needed, Bob was there. I am confident he will continue to do an outstanding job for the VHS. I want to acknowledge Dr. Paul Sattler, Dr. Terry Spohn, Sue Bruenderman, Dr. Joe Mitchell, and Doug Eggleston for accepting my various appointments and for giving their time to the Society.

For those of you who do not know me, here's a brief bio. I have been a member of the VHS since 1985 and secretary/treasurer from 1988-93. I am employed with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as a Fisheries Biologist Supervisor. I have been with the Department since 1977, working in S.E. Virginia before moving to Blacksburg in 1991. I reside in Blacksburg with my wife Francie and two sons, Ron and Steve. My interest in herps goes back to my early childhood in New England, when I would spend countless hours pursuing frogs, turtles, and snakes from the local ponds and woods. I never lost that love for being around wildlife. I received a B.S. in Biology from Virginia Tech and M.S. from Old Dominion University. I am a Certified Fisheries Scientist, and feel extremely fortunate in being able to continue an early ambition as my career.

The President's Corner was started several years ago to provide a forum containing news and information of interest to the membership. It also allowed for the VHS president to "speak out" on various herp related issues. You should have noticed that our past two newsletters have become very newsy and informative, leaving very little for this latest President's Corner.

I am going to take the opportunity to pass along a few of my thoughts.

CONSERVATION/RESEARCH/EDUCATION. According to our Constitution, this is the purpose of the Virginia Herpetological Society. I believe the Society has done a decent job at all three, though I think we have room for improvement. During my term as secretary/treasurer, I noticed that there was a significant turnover of first year members. This is not unusual for any organization, however why was it happening with ours? The new members had to be interested in herpetology. One reason was that many were into exotic animals for which we had no

information, and our publications did not provide them with what they needed or wanted. I do not foresee this situation changing. But, what about the 12 year old with a pet corn snake or box turtle? How do we reach and keep this person interested in herps? To the credit of the VHS, we have reduced membership fees for young people, and for the past several years the VHS has held "youth" workshops during the Fall meetings, but with minimal turnouts. We tried unsuccessfully to put together an educational booklet for the schools. What else can we do? I believe we must get into the schools. Instead of youth workshops, why not teacher workshops? We certainly have the expertise, let's take advantage of it!

On the other side of the coin...

What about you long time members. Are you getting the most from the VHS? Our semi-annual meetings seem more like family reunions, with the same few people attending most of the times. Don't get me wrong, I look forward to and enjoy every meeting. However, it would be nice to see some additional new faces. For those who have not attended one of our recent meetings please make an effort to do so and meet some of the people behind the names which appear on the newsletter and *Catesbeiana*. Which brings up one last peeve before I jump off the soapbox. Why is it that the same names appear every year on the election slate for officers? I can assure you that these dedicated members also have full time careers which keep them extremely busy, but they still find time for the VHS. What's your excuse? Come on, get active and involved in the VHS! It's a great organization.

To all who are still reading this - THANKS for your time and attention.

Ron Southwick, President

MINUTES OF THE FALL 1993 VHS MEETING

President Joe Mitchell opened the business meeting at 11:00 with 19 members in attendance. Ron Southwick presented the treasurer's report. The treasury has $1444.02 in checking and $1200.00 in savings as of October 8, 1993. Paul Sattler gave the Editor's report. A total of 170 copies of *Catesbeiana* were printed and 114 mailed out. Cost of this issue of the bulletin and postage was $262.11. Paul said he had used up all material sent to him and needs more for the Spring issue, including manuscripts, field notes and original art work. Newsletter editor Sue Bruenderman was unable to attend the meeting and Ron Southwick presented her report. A total of 125 newsletters were printed and 114 sent out at a total cost of $88.38. Newsletter material is also needed for the January issue. Ron requested that a "captive breeder/hobbyist" committee be formed to gather and prepare material for the newsletter. Doug Eggleston said that he would help out and prepare something for the next newsletter. Richard Hoffman recommended that the VHS recognize Toni Harrison for her assistance with preparing the last issue of the newsletter. Joe Mitchell will write a letter of appreciation to Toni.

Old Business

VHS poster - Joe said we needed more money for the poster and suggested contacting hospitals for funding. It was felt that the hospital emergency rooms would have a need for the proposed snake poster.

Service awards - Plaques were prepared by Ron Southwick for outgoing officers. The membership approved of this style of service award.

New Business

Donation to the Non-Game Fund - Ron Southwick asked if VHS would donate $250 to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Non-Game Fund to purchase a poster size photograph of a Virginia Endangered herp for a T & E display. The display will be used at the next Reptile Trade show in Richmond and for other functions. VHS will also be able to take advantage of the display. Terry Spohn made a motion to donate money which was approved by the membership.

Spring Meeting - Several recommendations for the Spring meeting were discussed, and included doing a similar type of meeting we had last year (wood turtle survey) where VHS target a specific species, county or special area to survey. Another suggestion was to design a long term monitoring study. The EXCOM will discuss options at a meeting in December.

There was no other new business.

Election of Officers - Terry Spohn nominated Paul Sattler for President-elect and Ron Southwick for President. Bill Hunley nominated Bob Hogan for Secretary and Treasurer. There were no other nominations. Richard Hoffman made a motion to approve the slate of officers nominated (seconded by Kurt Buhlmann). The slate was voted on and approved by membership present. Terry Spohn recognized Joe Mitchell for his outstanding leadership of the VHS for the past five years.

Break for lunch

Announcements - Joe's final act of duty as President was to present a service award to Doug Eggleston who served as Newsletter Editor from 1990 - 1992. Joe reported the "Reptiles of Virginia" book was on schedule and should be available in July, 1994. He also mentioned that a new herp journal was available Herpetological Natural History. Ron Southwick's first act of duty as President was to award Joe with an award for his service to the VHS. Joe will continue to serve on the EXCOM as Past-president. The business meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
Fall 1993 Meeting

The balance in the treasury reported at the Spring 1993 Meeting was $1664.69. (This included $925.00 in poster grants and $250.00 for Life memberships).

Expenditures since that time included:

7/26/93 ck. #107-113	Gas reimbursements	199.56
7/27/93 ck. #114	Postage for Newsletter	29.00
7/27/93 ck. #115	Newsletter printing	55.00
9/15/93 ck. #116	*Catesbeiana* & postage	262.11
Total Expenditures		$545.67

Receipts:

Dues	$291.00
Sales of T & E Chapters, t-shirts, etc.	34.00
Reimbursement for food and lodging Spring meeting (deposited into savings)	1200.00
Total Receipts	$1525.00

Balance in checking as of 10/08/93	$1444.02
Balance in savings as of 10/08/93	$1200.00
Total in treasury	$2644.02

The Society has a current membership of 111 members.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Southwick
Secretary and Treasurer

Necturus

ANNOUNCEMENT
SPRING 1994 MEETING OF THE
VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Spring 1994 meeting of the VHS will be held 22-24 April, 1994. This field trip meeting will consist of a herp survey of Copper Creek in Scott County. Copper Creek is home to many herp species, including the eastern hellbender, mudpuppy, and eastern spiny softshell turtle.

Meeting Place: Holiday Inn in Kingsport, TN (just across the State line). Lodging costs will be $39.00 + tax per night for a room with 2 beds. We should be able to squeeze some extra people per room on cots or sleeping bags to help defray costs. We have a block of rooms reserved so please let Ron Southwick know by **April 7** if you will need a room so we can confirm the number of rooms and get a list of names to the motel.

Schedule:

Friday, April 22

1 pm	Early arrivals: Set traps and nets in Copper Creek (Those who plan to arrive by 1 pm call Ron Southwick for arrangements).
7:00 - 9:00	Social time with slide presentation and discussions about Copper Creek (snacks & drinks provided) at the Holiday Inn.
9:00 - ?	Road cruising for herps

Saturday, April 23

9:00 - 5:00	Copper Creek herp survey
6:30 - 8:00	Pizza bash (Holiday Inn, provided by VHS)
8:00 - 9:00	Business meeting/discussion of day's events
9:00 - ?	More road cruising or night snorkeling on Copper Creek

Sunday, April 24

Check out, return any specimens to collection sites, and enjoy S.W. Virginia on your own.

Agenda:

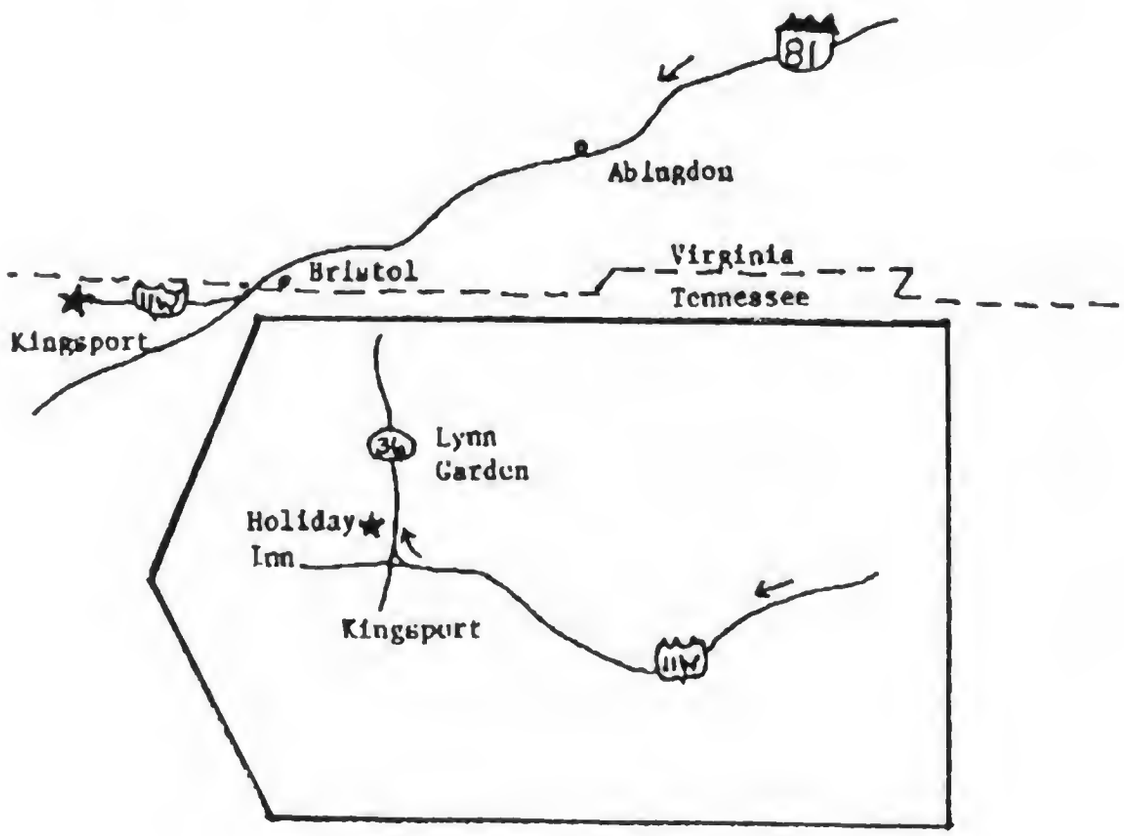
This is a field trip meeting, so wear your hiking clothes and be prepared for wet and cool weather. Bring a flashlight, camera, dip nets, and wading or snorkeling equipment if you have them.

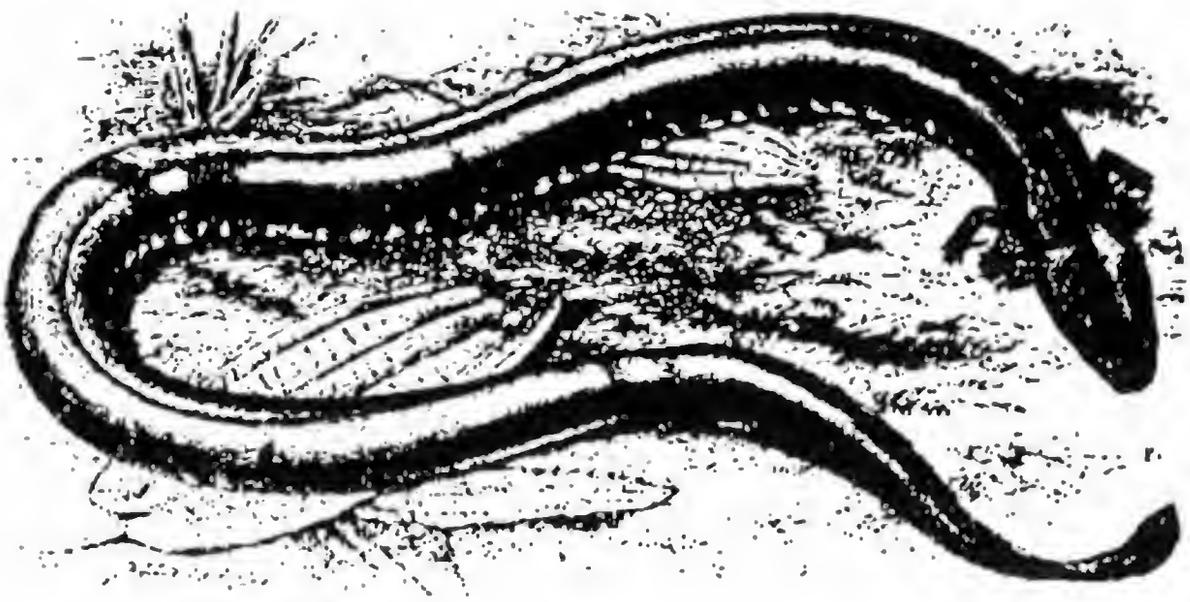
On Friday night, we will have a social and provide snacks and drinks. We will have a slide presentation on Copper Creek and discuss Saturday's sampling strategy. Later on, those who wish to road cruise for herps may do so. Saturday will be a full field day, surveying Copper Creek and its watershed. We will gather back at the motel, freshen up, and enjoy a pizza party before our business meeting and discussion of our survey results.

Please RSVP Ron Southwick by Friday, April 7, by letter or phone.

Address: 2206 South Main St., Suite C
Blacksburg, VA 24060
703 951-7929 (work) 703 552-3309 (home)

Directions: Follow I-81 South across Tennessee State line, take Rt. 11W South to Kingsport. Continue on 11W in Kingsport, turn right (north) onto Rt. 36. Holiday Inn will be on left (west) side of road. Telephone number for Holiday Inn is 615 247-3133.





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to ____ initiate ____ renew membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society for the year 19____.

___ I wish only to receive a membership list. Enclosed is $1.00 to cover the cost.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Dues Category: ___ Regular ___ Family ___ Under 18 ___ Life
($10.00) ($12.50) ($6.00) ($150)

Interests: ___ Reptiles ___ Amphibians ___ Captive Husbandry
___ Distribution ___ Research
___ Specifically _____

Make checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society and send to the treasurer: Robert Hogan, P.O. Box 603, Troutville, VA 24175.

Field Notes

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior, and other areas are welcomed. Reports can be on single species or fauna from selected areas, such as a state park or county. The format of the reports is species' scientific name (common name): State abbreviation: County, locality. Date. Observer(s) or collector(s). Report or observations given one line below the data mentioned above. Author(s) name and address are given one line below the report or observation. Consult published notes or the editor if your information does not readily fit this format.

If the note contains information on geographic distribution, a voucher specimen or color slide should be sent for verification and deposited in a permanent museum or sent to the Virginia Herpetological Society. Species identification for observational records should be verified by a second person.

The correct citation format: Tobey, F.J. 1989. Field notes: *Coluber constrictor constrictor*. *Catesbeiana* 9(2):35.

Herpetological Artwork

Herpetological artwork is welcomed. If the artwork has been published elsewhere, we will need to obtain copyright before we can use it in an issue. We need drawings and encourage members to send us anything appropriate, especially their own work.